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Message Text

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ACTION STR-07

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-01 H-02 INR-10
INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 PA-02 CTME-00 AID-05
SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01 DOE-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12
EUR-12 NEA-10 DOEE-00 /157 W
----------077511 102226Z /64
O 102015Z JUL 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1862

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USMTN

ACTION STR
PASS STR ELECTRONICALLY
STR PASS CODEL

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, GATT, MTN
SUBJECT: PRESS RELEASE OF JULY 10

FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A PRESS RELEASE ISSUED AT 3:45 PM JULY 10 IN GENEVA DESCRIBING A STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR ROBERT S.STRAUSS BEFORE AN INFORMAL MEETING OF TOKYO ROUND PARTICIPANTS.

BEGIN TEXT:

AMBASSADOR ROBERT S. STRAUSS, SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR TRADE NEGOTIATIONS, TOLD REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 98 TOKYO ROUND PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES TODAY IN GENEVA THAT "MUCH PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN THE TOKYO ROUND BUT MUCH REMAINS TO BE DONE."
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AMBASSADOR STRAUSS SAID, "THE TOKYO ROUND CAN REPRESENT THE HIGH POINT IN TRADE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN NATIONS AND CAN LAUNCH US ON A NEW COURSE MARKED, NOT ONLY BY MORE LIBERAL TRADE, BUT EVEN MORE IMPORTANTLY BY FAIRER TRADE WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF AN IMPROVED AND MODERNIZED TRADING SYSTEM."

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WITH REGARD TO THE JULY 15 TARGET DATE, AMBASSADOR STRAUSS SAID, "AS EVERYONE KNOWS, WE HAVE ESTABLISHED THE SELF-IMPOSED DEADLINE FOR OURSELVES OF JULY 15. OUR AIM WAS AND STILL IS TO REACH A POLITICAL AGREEMENT BY THAT DATE COVERING THOSE MAJOR ISSUES THAT WILL SHAPE THE FINAL RESULTS OF THE TOKYO ROUND. WE HAVE COME A LONG WAY BUT STILL HAVE CRITICAL STEPS TO TAKE."

"AS AMBASSADOR MCDONALD STATED LAST WEEK, THE UNITED STATES IS SEEKING THE MAXIMUM RESULTS THIS WEEK, INVOLVING THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS. THAT IS WHY I AM HERE. THAT IS WHY WE HAVE REINFORCED OUR DELEGATION FROM SOME 25 OFFICERS NORMALLY TO ABOUT 90 FOR THE COMING DAYS. THAT IS WHY WE ARE MEETING ALMOST AROUND THE CLOCK, IN PLURILATERAL SESSIONS WITH MANY OF YOU AND WITH BILATERAL SESSIONS TOO NUMEROUS NOW TO EVEN COUNT.

"WE WILL BE PRESSING AHEAD DURING THE COMING DAYS TO REACH ACCORD WHEREVER POSSIBLE, ON WHATEVER ISSUES STILL SEPARATE US WITH WHOMEVER IS READY TO SIT DOWN AND NEGOTIATE AND TAKE DECISIONS ALONG WITH US. TO MAKE SURE THAT THE UNITED STATES CAN BE IMMEDIATELY RESPONSIVE, WE HAVE BROUGHT TO THIS NEGOTIATING SITE THE MEMBERS OF OUR COMMITTEE THAT PREPARE INSTRUCTIONS FOR OUR GOVERN-MENT. THUS, ON OUR PART, WE ARE HERE TO DO BUSINESS.
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WE HOPE YOU SHARE THAT AIM WITH US. WE INTEND TO BE RESPONSIVE AND FORTHCOMING BUT NOT FOOLISH OR TIMID IN PUTTING FORWARD THE U.S. INTERESTS."

LOOKING AT THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, AMBASSADOR STRAUSS SAID THAT "BY THE END OF THIS WEEK WE SHOULD BE FAR ENOUGH ALONG TO CLEARLY SEE WHERE THE OUT-COME IS LIKELY TO BE." HE SAID THAT A SET OF CODES COVERING NON-TARIFF MEASURES WILL BE A CORNERSTONE OF NEW AND EXPANDED UNDERSTANDINGS BETWEEN NATIONS THAT WILL REINFORCE THE GATT, BRING IT UP TO DATE AND LAY THE FOUNDATION FOR A CONSTRUCTIVELY EVOLVING SET OF TRADE RELATIONS OVER THE YEARS AHEAD."

AMBASSADOR STRAUSS SAID, "BY THE END OF THIS WEEK WE ANTICIPATE REACHING AN ACCORD AMONG THE MAJOR TRADING NATIONS AND WITH AS MANY OTHER NATIONS AS ARE READY TO TAKE DECISIONS ON THOSE CODES DEALING WITH CUSTOMS VALUATION, STANDARDS, AND GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT." HE SAID THAT IT WAS ALSO "HIGHLY PROBABLE" THAT THE TOUGH ISSUES REMAINING ON SUBSIDIES WILL ALSO BE RESOLVED THIS WEEK. HE SAID THAT NATIONS WOULD ALSO BE DOING THEIR

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BEST TO DEAL WITH THE ISSUES OF QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS AND IMPORT LICENSING.

AMBASSADOR STRABSS SAID THAT IN THE AREA OF INDUSTRIAL TARIFFS, "WE HAVE MADE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS AND ARE PUSHING RAPIDLY TOWARD CONCLUSION. FROM THE U.S. POINT OF VIEW, WE ARE STILL NOT SATISFIED WITH THE LEVEL OF OFFERS THAT HAVE BEEN EXTENDED, AND WE APPEAL TO OUR NEGOTIATING PARTNERS FOR IMPROVEMENT SO THAT WE CAN CONCLUDE A DEAL THIS WEEK AMONG THOSE KEY COUNTRIES FOLLOWING THE TARIFF FORMULA."

"IN AGRICULTURE," HE SAID, "WE STILL HAVE MUCH WORK TO

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NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12
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ACTION STR; PASS STR ELECTRONCIALLY; STR PASS CODEL

DO, ALTHOUGH HERE AGAIN WE ARE MAKING MUCH PROGRESS. WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY WE ARE DISCUSSING POSSIBILITIES FOR ACHIEVING GREATER UNDERSTANDING SO THAT WE CAN AVOID CONTINUING CONFRONTATIONS ON AGRICULTURE IN THE YEARS AHEAD. WE HAVE A VERY LARGE TEAM OF AGRICULTURAL EXPERTS IN FROM WASHINGTON TO SUPPLEMENT MEMBERS OF OUR LOCAL DELEGATION AND THEY ARE HEAVILY ENGAGED IN THE FINAL ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS ON COMMODITY AGREEMENTS WHICH WE HOPE CAN BE FRAMED WITHIN THE COMING DAYS."

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"WE MUST STILL SEEK GREATER RESULTS THAN WE CAN NOW FIND ON THE TABLE IN RESPONSE TO OUR AGRICULTURAL REQUESTS," HE CONTINUED. "THIS IS THE SECTOR OF THE NEGOTIATIONS THAT CURRENTLY CONCERNS ME THE MOST AND ONE THAT MUST MOVE AHEAD BEFORE WE CAN HAVE A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THE TOKYO ROUND. CLEARLY THIS IS OF FAR GREATER IMPORTANCE TO US THAN AN ARBITRARY DEADLINE . . .
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SINCE WE CANNOT SETTLE FOR A NEGLIGIBLE RESULT IN AGRICULTURE, OUR OTHER ACCORDS, REGARDLESS OF HOW EXPENSIVE AND IMPORTANT THEY MAY BE, MUST BE CONSIDERED AS AD REFERENDUM SETTLEMENTS SUBJECT TO ULTIMATE SATISFACTION OF REASONABLE AGRICULTURAL REQUESTS."

WITH REGARD TO THE MODERNIZATION OF THE TRADING SYSTEM AMBASSADOR STRAUSS SAID, "I AM PLEASED WITH THE TREMENDOUS PROGRESS MADE IN INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS OF THE FRAMEWORK GROUP OF THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS . . . I BELIEVE WE NOW HAVE SUFFICIENT GOOD WILL TO COME OUT WITH A SUCCESSFUL RESULT."
SPEAKING OF SAFEGUARDS, AMBASSADOR STRAUSS NOTED THAT THE UNITED STATES IS "PURSUING DISCUSSIONS ON REMAINING ISSUES BUT WE DO NOT YET SEE OUR WAY TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION. WE STILL HAVE SEVERAL IMPORTANT POINTS THAT SEPARATE US. WE HAVE AGREED THAT UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES SELECTIVE SAFEGUARDS MAY BE APPROPRIATE. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT THEY SHOULD ONLY BE UNDERTAKEN AS EXCEPTIONS TO THE GENERAL RULE UNDER HIGHLY UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES AND ONLY THEN WITHIN A DISCIPLINED FRAME-WORK FOLLOWING CONSULTATIONS WITH THOSE COUNTRIES DIRECTLY AFFECTED. CLEARLY, THIS WILL OCCUPY MANY HOURS OF OUR TIME IN THE COMING DAYS."

SPEAKING OF THE POST JULY 15 PERIOD, AMBASSADOR STRAUSS SAID, "IT IS NOT OUR INTENTION THAT THE NEGOTIATION SHOULD CEASE AS OF JULY 15. OBVIOUSLY, WE WILL HAVE MORE WORK TO DO SINCE IT WAS NEVER INTENDED THAT WE COULD COMPLETE ALL OF OUR TECHNICAL TASKS AND FINAL ADJUSTMENTS BY THAT DATE. THEREFORE, NO COUNTRY SHOULD FEEL THAT ITS INTERESTS HAVE BEEN NEGLECTED OR CANNOT BE SERVED. FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ARE NECESSARY TO ROUND OUT A
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SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION.

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"FURTHERMORE WE RECOGNIZE THAT AS THE PACKAGE TAKES
ITS FINAL FORM ADDITIONAL DISCUSSIONS WILL BE NEEDED
ON THE QUESTIONS OF SPECIAL AND DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT
FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES."

END TEXT. MCDONALD

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